

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/073,153

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Applicant(s)

KIM, KI-SUN

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview on 11/22/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Bushnell on November 22, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 12, line 1: delete [in claim 9] and insert –in claim 11—

In claim 15, line 2: delete [predetermined sounds, including voice sounds;] and insert –predetermined vocal sounds;-- after “a plurality of”.

In claim 15, line 3: insert –vocal—in front of “sounds in close proximity”.

In claim 15, line 4: insert – vocal—in front of “sound to the sounds”.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-18 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There are references in prior art teach or suggest a vehicle blind spots monitoring camera system comprising a plurality of cameras for photographing blind spots and display a composite signal on a display monitor as found in Gutta et al. (US 6424273), Schofield et al. (US 6222447) and Ramachandran et al. (US 6259475).

However, they all fail to teach a key operator integrated with the monitor and being utilized by an occupant of said vehicle for controlling how the image information is display on the screen of said monitor and for setting a photographing schedule for the cameras for surveillance when the vehicle is unattended in a vehicle surveillance and blind spot monitoring system (claim 1) comprising:

- a plurality of digital cameras mounted on a vehicles' s interior and exterior for photographing a driving information, the interior environment of the vehicle and exterior views around the vehicle to eliminate blind spots inherent to the vehicle's mirrors;

- a monitor mounted on a front panel of the vehicle for displaying image information photographed by each digital camera on a screen of said monitor;

- a key operator integrated with the monitor and disposed on a front face of said monitor, said key operator being utilized by an occupant of said vehicle for controlling how the image information is displayed on the screen of said monitor and for setting a photographing schedule for the digital cameras;

- a system controller for controlling every part of said vehicle surveillance system according to a signal input from said key operator;

- a memory, being attachable/detachable with the system controller through a communications

- port, for sequentially saving the image information photographed by the digital cameras under the control of the system controller;

- a power supply, being charged by a car battery, for supplying power to every part of the vehicle surveillance system; and

an operation controller for turning on/off the power supply and every part of the vehicle surveillance system.

There are reference in prior art teach or suggest a system for monitoring a vehicle environment comprising sound detectors for detecting sounds in proximity to the vehicle including glass breaking and sound of intrusion into the vehicle as found in McCormick et al. (US 4134109) and Grasmann et al. (US 5598141). However, both fail to disclose a vehicle surveillance system (**claim 15**) comprising:

- sound memory storing a plurality of predetermined vocal sounds;
- a sound detector for detecting vocal sounds in close proximity to said vehicle;
- a sound analyzer for comparing a detected vocal sound to the sounds stored in said sound memory; an alarm generator for generating an audible alarm through a speaker to the exterior of said vehicle when said sound analyzer determines the detected sound corresponds to one of said stored sounds.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McCormick et al. (US 4134109) disclose an alarm system responsive to the breaking of glass.

Grasman et al. (US 5598141) disclose a method of monitoring a vehicle interior.

Schofield et al. (US 6222447) disclose a rearview vision system.

Gutta et al. (US 6424273) disclose a system to aid a driver to determine whether to change lane.

Ramachandran et al. (US 6259475) disclose a vehicle surveillance system.

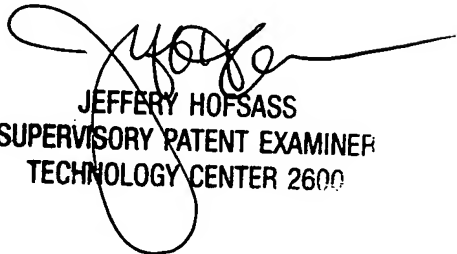
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham
November 22, 2005.



JEFFERY HOFSAAS
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